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SUBJECT: ITALY'S POSITIONS ON 64TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD COMMITTEE 2009 PRIORITIES

REF: SECSTATE 109397

Classified By: Political-Military Counselor J. Liam Wasley for reasons
1.4(b) and 1.4(d)

¶1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche on USG human rights priorities for the 2009 UN General Assembly Third Committee on November 2 to MFA Human Rights Office Director Laura Carpini. She confirmed the GOI's opposition to no-action motions. She noted Italy's close work with EU partners on this effort. On Iran, the GOI actively supports the Canadian resolution to improve the human rights situation. The GOI also supports the EU plan to table resolutions on Burma and the DPRK.

¶2. (C) On thematic resolutions, the GOI remains opposed to the tabling of the defamation of religion resolution. Carpini noted the GOI's longstanding alignment with the USG on the issue and finds "any tabling to be worrisome" due to the concept of granting rights to a religion that would be more appropriately applied to an individual. The GOI supports the US on the free elections resolution.

¶3. (C) On the rights of the child resolution, the GOI appreciates the new USG effort at engagement, is willing to work together to accommodate proposals and is flexible depending upon what wording the USG proposes changing. However, Carpini pointed out that changing the resolution's language becomes a complex issue as it is a "landmark resolution" for the GOI. The GOI supports the resolution on the elimination of discrimination against women.
THORNE